

The great facts of British and Canadian History should be taught, and in this connection, I am pleased to say that the teaching of history to-day is on a higher plane than it was in my boyhood. To-day the advance of the people in civilization, in art, in commerce, and in the other vast influences that make for peace and prosperity are considered of more importance than the wars that have set back the hands of the clock. There have been wars which have assisted in the advance of civilization, or at least have not been negative in effect, and only such wars are of importance. Wars caused by the impertinence of one ruler to another should be put in their proper places, a most insignificant one in true history.

The teaching of history is well attended to in the higher grades, but I think the junior grades might receive much useful instruction on these points if the teachers would take up as subjects for their stories the great facts of history, the deeds of our own great men, the early settlers of Canada, etc.

Our children should be taught something of the resources of our country, our trade, our shipping, our industries, the extent of our territory, the possibilities in store for our country, and the importance of the British Empire.

I should like to see some good writer of stories for children undertake a task I shall here suggest. We do much here for our children in the line of supplementary reading. British writers have prepared an excellent series of books treating of History, Geography, Natural History, etc., suitable for all grades of the schools. The History series published by the MacMillans is an excellent one, beginning with a book of interesting stories for little ones proceeding by easy steps to one suitable for the highest grades. I hope some enterprising Canadian may take hold of this suggestion and prepare something of the kind for our Canada. The school histories have been too much taken up with the dry bones of history, and have neglected the beautiful romance of history. Stories of this kind treating of Canadian history, geography, plants, birds and animals should find a large sale. These books, remember, must be written for children and must not be dry treatises on these subjects, but stories which will appeal to the child mind, and I think should be clothed in attractive form. I am sorry that an interesting little book recently issued "Stories of Canadian History," is so poor an example of the printer's and bookbinder's art.

The Literature, History, and Geography lessons furnish opportunities which every patriotic teacher may use to advantage. Patriotic songs are also sung in all classes in our city and I trust elsewhere.

Although our history is taught and well taught there is an immense amount of ignorance regarding our institutions. Our children of Canadian birth know little enough, but what shall be said of those of foreign birth. They cannot, from the nature of things, be properly instructed in this respect in their homes. If these children are to become thorough Canadians and intelligent British subjects it must be through the schools.